

No claim amendments were made in the most recent Response of February 17, 2004. However, upon reviewing the claim amendments previously made on June 19, 2003, Applicants noted a mistake in presently pending claim 1. In particular, the relationship (3) of claim 1 as amended on June 19, 2003, recited:

$$MT_{ur} \geq 10 \text{ (gf)}$$

$$\text{where } 0.2 \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3.$$

However, the terms MT_{ur} and MFR_{ur} of claim 1 respectively indicate the melt tension of raw resin and the melt flow rate of raw resin. Therefore, the formula (3) of claim 1 should have recited "where $0.1 \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3$ " instead of "where $0.2 \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3$ " in line with a value of 0.1 for the lower limit as supported by originally filed claim 9. See claim 9 at lines 12-13; see also Response of June 19, 2003, at page 7, lines 10-13 and 17-23. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite "where $0.1 \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3$ ".

The specification has also been amended in conformance with the amendment to claim 1 wherein a paragraph discussing a Fig. 9 corresponding to the claim 1 is amended. It is noted that the amended paragraph was first introduced in an Appendix B in the Response of June 19, 2003. Therefore, the paragraph is not present

in the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, the amendment is directed to the paragraph as submitted in the Appendix B as filed in the Response of June 19, 2003.

Finally, a replacement sheet of the Fig. 9 is provided herein. Fig. 9 as discussed in the amended paragraph and as claimed by claim 1 shows that MT_{ur} is equal to or greater than 10 (gf) where $0.1 \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3$. The amendment to Fig. 9 is supported by the originally filed claim 9.

Claims 4-8 have been amended as to matters of form.

No new matter within the meaning of § 132 has been added by any of the amendments.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendments to claim 1, the specification and the drawings. As otherwise argued in the most recent Response of February 19, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is unobvious and unanticipated by the cited references and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-8 and 12-15.

CONCLUSION

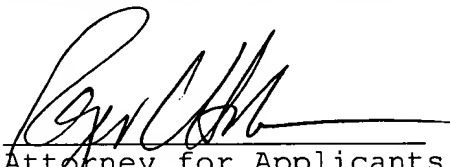
In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the

application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the pending claims and allow the pending claims. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney's Docket No. HOS-57
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Group Art Unit: 1772
)
KOGURE, GOKURAKU, TAKAHASHI) Examiner: Marc A. Patterson
IMANARI, KITAHAMA)
)
Serial No. 09/629,949)
)
Filed: August 1, 2000)

For: **MULTI-LAYER EXPANSION-MOLDED ARTICLE OF POLYPROPYLENE
RESIN, PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREOF, AND CONTAINER,
SHOCK-ABSORBING MATERIAL FOR AUTOMOBILE AND AUTOMOTIVE
MEMBER FORMED OF THE MULTI-LAYER EXPANSION- MOLDED
ARTICLE OF POLYPROPYLENE RESIN**

Appendix A

It is noted that the following amended paragraph was first introduced in an Appendix B in the Response of June 19, 2003. Therefore, the paragraph is not present in the specification as originally filed.

Accordingly, please amend the following paragraph as submitted in the Appendix B filed on June 19, 2003. The following paragraph was directed to be entered on page 10, after line 23 and after a paragraph describing a Fig. 8.

--Fig. 9 is a graphical representation of the relationships $\log MT_{ur} > -1.02 \log MFR_{ur} + 0.47$ where $MFR_{ur} \geq 0.3$ and $MT_{ur} \geq 10$ (gf) where $\underline{0.1} \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3$ drawn on a double logarithmic

chart where MT_{ur} is the vertical axis and represents the melt tension of an unfoamed layer and MFR_{ur} is the horizontal axis and represents the melt flow rate of the unfoamed layer.



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Appendix B

Please amend the claims according to the revision to 37
C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) A skin-bearing article molded from
a multi-layer foamed parison having inner surfaces mutually
welded, comprising:

 a foamed polypropylene resin layer having a density of
25 to 400 kg/m³ formed from a first raw resin, and

 an unfoamed polypropylene resin layer formed from
a second raw resin provided on the outer side of the
foamed polypropylene resin layer

said first raw resin forming the foamed polypropylene resin layer having a melt tension, MT_{fr} (gf), and a melt flow rate, MFR_{fr} (g/10 min), and satisfying the following relationship (1), and

said second raw resin forming the unfoamed polypropylene resin layer having a melt tension, MT_{ur} (gf), and a melt flow rate, MFR_{ur} (g/10 min), and satisfying the following relationships (2) and (3)

$$\log MT_{fr} > -0.74 \log MFR_{fr} + 0.66 \quad (1)$$

$$\log MT_{ur} > -1.02 \log MFR_{ur} + 0.47$$

$$\text{where } MFR_{ur} \geq 0.3 \quad (2)$$

$$MT_{ur} \geq 10 \text{ (gf)} \quad \text{where } \underline{0.1} \leq MFR_{ur} < 0.3 \quad (3).$$

2. (Previously presented) A skin-bearing article molded from a multi-layer foamed parison having inner surfaces mutually welded, comprising:

a foamed polypropylene resin layer having a density of 25 to 400 kg/m³, and

an unfoamed polypropylene resin layer provided on the outer side of the foamed polypropylene resin layer

the foamed polypropylene resin layer in the skin-bearing article having a melt tension, MT_{f1} (gf), and a melt flow rate, MFR_{f1} (g/10 min), and satisfying the following relationship (4), and

the unfoamed polypropylene resin layer on the surface of the foamed polypropylene resin layer having a melt tension, MT_{r1} (gf), and a melt flow rate, MFR_{r1} (g/10 min), and satisfying the following relationships (5) and (6)

$$\log MT_{f1} > -0.74 \log MFR_{f1} + 0.79 \quad (4)$$

$$\log MT_{r1} > -1.02 \log MFR_{r1} + 0.69$$

$$\text{where } MFR_{r1} \geq 0.5 \quad (5)$$

$$MT_{r1} \geq 10 \text{ (gf)}$$

$$\text{where } 0.2 \leq MFR_{r1} < 0.5 \quad (6).$$

3. (Previously presented) The skin-bearing article according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the thickness of the unfoamed polypropylene resin layer formed on the surface of the foamed polypropylene resin layer is 100 μm to 10 mm, and the overall density of the skin-bearing article is 20 to 400 kg/m^3 .

4. (Currently amended) The skin-bearing article according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 or 2, wherein the area ratio of the mutually welded portion in the inner surface of the skin-bearing article is at least 25%.

5. (Currently amended) The skin-bearing article according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 or 2, wherein the area ratio of the mutually welded portion in the inner surface of the skin-bearing article is at least 60%.

6. (Currently amended) The skin-bearing article according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 or 2, wherein the area ratio of the mutually welded portion in the inner surface of the skin-bearing article is at least 80%.

7. (Currently amended) The skin-bearing article according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 or 2, wherein the area ratio of the mutually welded portion in the inner surface of the skin-bearing article is at least 95%.

8. (Currently amended) The skin-bearing article according to ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 or 2, which further has a skin layer formed of a synthetic resin on the outer side of the unfoamed polypropylene resin layer.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A container formed of the skin-bearing article according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the overall density of the container is 30 to 400 kg/m³, and the thickness of the unfoamed polypropylene resin layer is 200 μm to 5 mm.

13. (Previously presented) A shock-absorbing material for automobile formed of the skin-bearing article according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the overall density of the shock-absorbing material is 25 to 300 kg/m³ and the thickness of the unfoamed polypropylene resin layer is 200 μm to 7 mm.

14. (Previously presented) A member for automobile formed of the skin-bearing article according to Claim 1 or 2.

15. (Original) The member for automobile according to Claim 14, wherein the member for automobile is a member selected from among a bumper, pillar, instrument panel, spoiler, fender, side step, door trim, grille guard and trunk board.